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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
SEP 9 1970

TO : Department of State

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: August 31, 1970

SUBJECT : Press Release on Congressional Call on Ambassador to Express Condolences on the Death of Mitrione

REF : A-186, 8/19/70

BEGIN STATEMENT:

August 15, 1970

Four members of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Guatemalan Congress headed by Lic. Ramiro G. Ramos Gonzalez, president of the Committee, visited the American Embassy to deliver to Ambassador Davis a copy of the Congressional resolution concerning the death of U.S. official Daniel Mitrione.

Lic. Ramos was accompanied by Congressmen Lics. Alvaro Augusto Cuevas Figueroa, Maria Teresa Fernandez de Grotewold and Alfredo Hemmerling Morales.

An important part of the resolution was the energetic condemnation of the violence and terrorism that took the life of Mr. Mitrione.

In the statement that Lic. Ramos read to Ambassador Davis upon presenting the resolution he said: "As presented by the Foreign Relations Committee of the Congress of the Republic, of which I am honored to be the presiding member, the Congress of Guatemala has unanimously approved a resolution which, as you know from the national and international press, expresses the sorrow and consternation of the Guatemalan people over the painful incidents which have occurred in Uruguay. . ."

He added that Congress wanted to express "its deep felt sorrow on the death of a North American which we now express to the Government and people of the United States through their diplomatic representatives."

END STATEMENT.

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Drafted by: POL:WOglesby:mm:8/28/70

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:LAPezzullo

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Ambassador Davis who received the delegation accompanied by Mr. Lawrence Pezzullo, First Secretary of the Embassy, thanked Lic. Ramos for his generous words and said that he would transmit the expression of condolences and sympathy from the Guatemalan Congress and the Guatemalan people to the Government of the United States and the family of Mr. Mitrione.
END STATEMENT

Department is requested to pass this statement to Mrs. Mitrione.

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CONGRESO DE GUATEMALA EXPRESA CONDOLENCIA POR MUERTE DE MITRIONE

GUATEMALA, Agosto 15 -- Cuatro miembros de la Comisión de relaciones exteriores del Congreso de Guatemala, encabezados por el licenciado Ramiro G. Ramos González, presidente de la Comisión, visitaron la embajada de los Estados Unidos para presentar una copia del punto resolutivo concerniente a la muerte del funcionario norteamericano Daniel Mitrione, al embajador Nathaniel Davis.

Acompañaron al licenciado Ramos los diputados, licenciados Alvaro Augusto Cuevas Figueroa, María Teresa Fernández de Grotewold y Alfredo Hemmerling Morales.

Parte importante del punto resolutivo fue la enérgica condenación de la violencia y el terrorismo políticos que cobraron la vida del señor Mitrione.

En las declaraciones que el licenciado Ramos leyó al embajador Davis, mientras le entregaba el punto resolutivo, dijo que: "A propuesta de la Comisión de relaciones exteriores del Congreso de la república, que me honro en presidir, el Organismo legislativo de Guatemala aprobó, por unanimidad, un punto resolutivo, que, como os habeis informado por la prensa nacional e internacional, expresa los sentimientos de pena y consternación del pueblo guatemalteco, -ya que el Congreso tiene esa legítima representación popular-, por los graves y dolorosos sucesos acaecidos en la República Oriental del Uruguay..."

Agregó que el Congreso deseaba expresar "su sentir luctuoso por la inmolación de un ciudadano norteamericano, que ahora patentizamos con grande pena al pueblo y gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América, por medio de sus legítimos representantes diplomáticos".

El embajador Davis, quien recibió a los visitantes acompañado del señor Lawrence Pezzullo, primer secretario de la embajada, agradeció al licenciado Ramos sus generosas palabras, y dijo que transmitiría la expresión de condolencia y simpatía del Congreso y del pueblo guatemaltecos al gobierno de los Estados Unidos y a la familia Mitrione.

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